

A Farmer's View of the Church.

With wife, I've had a round with Wayne,
Bout punn' our ch'rch;
He tried the sceptic dodge on me,
The argument of smutch.

Says he, "Look at your members now,
There's Jones got drunk, an' Swain
Will cheat a friend to make a trade;
An' I as good as them!"

Says I, "A butcher buying stock
Doesn't just the way you do;
He hunts around the cattle-yard,
An' finds the meanest two;

Then ev'ry offer that he makes,
An' ev'ry one he hears,
Is coupled with the meein' words—
'Jest look to them two steers!'

You pick the meanest Christians out,
An' then, with tricky jeers,
You run the whole church down by that—
'Jest look at them two steers!'

No farmer's fooled by that old trick,
And so you can't afford
To risk your soul in tryin' it
Upon the all-wise Lord."

LESSON NOTES. FOURTH QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

B.C. 1451.] LESSON I. [OCT. 7

THE COMMISSION OF JOSHUA.

Josh. 1. 1-9. Memory verses, 8, 9

GOLDEN TEXT.

Stand, therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breast-plate of righteousness. Eph. 6. 14.

OUTLINE.

1. The Leader.
2. The Commission.

TIME.—1451 B.C.

PLACE.—The plains of Moab.

EXPLANATIONS.—All this people—the whole body of Israelites. *The wilderness*—That is, the peninsula at the south of Canaan, in which they had wandered for thirty-eight years. *The great sea*—The Mediterranean. *Not depart out of thy mouth*—This means he should know the law so thoroughly as to have it always, as we say, "at tongue's end"—able always to quote it, and always obeying it.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where, in this lesson, are we taught—
1. That God will keep all his promises?
2. That we should be bold in God's service?
3. That we ought to study and obey God's word?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. After Moses' death, who became leader of the people? Joshua, the son of Nun.
2. What sort of spirit had he shown himself to be? Full of spirit of wisdom.
3. Under what promise of God did he undertake the new work? "I will not fail thee."
4. What one thing did God require of him? To observe to do all the law.
5. What command as to his action in his new position did God give him? "Be strong and of a good courage."
6. What command of Paul to the Christian soldier resembles this? "Stand, therefore, having your loins," etc.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Christian courage.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

1. Man was made to know, love and serve God: have all men done so?
No: "for all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans iii. 23.)

R.C. 1451] LESSON II. [OCT. 14

CROSSING THE JORDAN.

Josh. 3. 5-17, Memory verse, 5-6

GOLDEN TEXT.

When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee. Isa. 43. 2.

OUTLINE.

1. The Ark.
2. The River.

TIME.—1451 B.C.

PLACE.—The banks of the Jordan, near Jericho.

EXPLANATIONS.—*Sanctify yourselves*—By sacred washings and changes of raiment. *Will do wonders*—Will make some miraculous manifestation in your behalf. *Magnify thee*—To especially honour him before the people, that the people might know he was God's chosen servant. *Drink of the water*—Eastern brink of the Jordan, at the water's edge. *The living God*—That is, the true and only God, in opposition to lifeless idols. *Shall stand upon a heap*—Or shall be like a wall; when the waters stop running down they shall pile up. *The salt sea*—The Dead Sea.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where, in this lesson, are we taught—
1. That God honours those whom he calls to his service?
2. That he will deliver all who trust in him?
3. That his people need fear no danger where he leads?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. What was the next great event in Israel's history? The passage of the Jordan.
2. How did they cross this river? They all passed over on dry ground.
3. What was the apparent cause of this dry ground passage? The ark in the river.
4. What was the real cause? The presence of the eternal God.
5. What has been the voice of God to the world ever since? "When thou passest," etc.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—God's presence.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

2. Did our first parents continue in the state in which God created them?
No; they fell from that state into sin.

HOUSEKEEPING FOR GIRLS.

It is astonishing that mothers should be willing to send their daughters into the world unfitted to fulfil the practical duties of life.

Many years ago I went to visit a family in New Jersey, in which there was a method of instruction for the daughters pursued by the mother, a shrewd sensible woman, which has always seemed to me to be well worthy of imitation by every mother who has her daughter's future happiness at heart. This mother was a thorough housekeeper, a widow who, in addition to her household duties, was carrying on the business of her late husband in a building adjoining the house. She had four daughters. She gave them the best education the city afforded, and it being the seat of a college, the schools were uncommonly good. When the oldest daughter graduated from school, the mother took her into the kitchen, where she was thoroughly instructed in all the mysteries of that kind of work; taught her all other kinds of housekeeping work, even how to select poultry, butcher's meat, etc., and how to preside at table. When she was competent to do it, she alternated, week in and week out, with her mother, in taking entire charge of the house as mistress. When the other daughters graduated, the same thorough instruction was given them, and when these girls married, as they all did, housekeeping was no bugbear to them or cause for trouble and anxiety to their husbands. Their parlours were the resort of the best people of the place, and their house was a home in every sense of the word. Will every other mother go and do likewise?

LITTLE LYDIA.

This is the name of our pet—one of the sweetest and the dearest in this wide world. Just such a little child, I think, it must have been that Jesus took in his arms when he said, "Who-soever shall receive one of such children in my name, receiveth me." This dear little girl had one of the loveliest and best of papas. How she loved him! and how he loved her! He was a Christian lawyer, and when at home would sit down in his library-chair, and gather his big law-books around him, which looked to be very uninteresting to Lydia. She would often go to him and climb up on his knee, and put her sweet mouth to his for a loving kiss; and her papa would lay his open book aside, and talk to Lydia in the way she liked best, and not be sorry, either, that his studies had been interrupted.

More than a year ago, this kind papa went home to heaven. His little girl did not stand beside him when he went, to hear his last good-bye; and when she heard that he had gone, she wondered much. The story she was told was true. Papa was safe in another home, more beautiful than his on earth; and, though he could not return to little Lydia, she could go to him. How she will go—whether up to heaven on a ladder, or with wings—she cannot decide. No one has told her of death, the funeral, and the grave. To do just what God and papa wish, that she may be ready to go to them at any time, in God's own way, is little Lydia's daily wish; and she is now, I think, not four years old.

HOW WHALES ARE FED.

"An intelligent sea-captain informs me," says a writer, "that several years ago, in the Gulf Stream, off the coast of Florida, he fell in with such a 'school of young sea-nettles' (medusæ), as had never before been heard of." The sea was covered with them for many leagues. He likened them, as they appeared on near inspection in the water, to acorns floating on a stream; but they were so thick as to completely cover the sea, giving it the appearance, in the distance, of a boundless meadow in the yellow leaf. He was bound for England, and was five or six days in sailing through them. In about sixty days afterward, on his return, he fell in with the same school off the Western Islands, and here he was three or four days in passing them again. He recognized them as the same, for he had never before seen any like them, and on both occasions he frequently hauled up basketfuls and examined them. Now, the Western Islands is a great place of resort for whales, and at first there is something curious to us in the idea that the Gulf of Mexico is the harvest field, and the Gulf Stream the gleaner which collects the fruitage planted there and conveys it thousands of miles off to the hungry whale at sea. But how perfectly in unison is it with the kind and providential care of that great and good Being who cares for the sparrow and feeds the young ravens when they cry!"

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